

The Japan Foundation Asia Center
Asia Fellowship Report
Phan Dang Di

WATER and MOON

The main purpose of my fellowship this time is doing some researches as well as scouting location for the film WATER and MOON, which was inspired by Yasunari Kawabata's short story MOON ON THE WATER. I had a 25 days trip along Japan and visited many cities (Fukuoka, Kyoto, Tokyo) and met many people at Fukuoka Film Commission, Fukuoka City Government, Fukuoka Film Archive, Mont Blanc Pictures, Usa Film Commission, Kyoto University, Keio University, Japan Institute of Moving Images, Japan Foundation. All the visiting and meeting is to serve the script writing as well as pre-production stage of the film WATER AND MOON (will be shot in 2020)



Photo 1

Experienced the daily life in Fukuoka – where was chosen as main location of my film Water and Moon (photo 1)

I had 9 days in Fukuoka to visit many beautiful landscapes, Japanese tradition house, locations with the thoughtful help of people in Fukuoka Film Commission (Mrs Torigoe Mikiko, Mrs Tomoko Takamizawa, Mrs Mika Iseri, Mr Taira Ebihara) We did scouting location at Itoshima City Nokoshima Island, a small fishing village in suburb of Fukuoka, Traditional Fish Market in town, Ningyou Syouji area, I also experienced the daily life in downtown of Fukuoka.

I also spent one day in Usa city (Oita) to do scouting location here with the kindly help of Mr Chang Chiawei (Usa City Film Commission). We visited: Bungotakada-shi (Oita), The stone Bridge in Innai Town, Higashi-shiya's water fall, Nagasi Fishing Harbor, Landscape of Nishi-Shiia, Joui No 1 Bunker, Ryoai area (staircase rice fiel) and Usa Station

I had 7 days in Kyoto to visit old town area, Nijo-jo castle, Kyoto Museum to research the decoration, architecture and space concept of Japanese architectural for WATER and MOON production design work.

I also met my old student in Film Studies Program in Hanoi National University, Mrs Nguyen Le, who now is in doctoral study program of ethnology in Kyoto University, to consult her about Japanese life style in modern time.

I stayed in Tokyo for the remain time of this fellowship trip. In here, I met Professor Nguyen Nam from Fulbright University in Vietnam, who has a research program in Keio University. Professor Nguyen Nam is expert of Sinology, Confucianism and literature and we consulted together about Kawabata's life, works and Japanese literature in his time as well.

I also visited Japan Institute of Moving Imagine (JIMI) with the guide of Professor Ishizaka Kenji. The purpose of this visiting is to looking for the talents for WATER and MOON as well as candidates for our program Autumn Meeting 2018 (We finally invited a graduated student of JIMI, Mr. MISAWA Takuya joining our Autumn Meeting from Oct 29 to Nov 6th 2018)

After the fellowship trip, I already collected many locations for Water and Moon (Estimated of 60% of location of Water and Moon are chosen. The important locations such as Japanese traditional old house (in Itoshima city), Japan old town in the time of after second world war (in Bungotakada-shi, Oita), Small Fishing Village (suburb of Fukuoka), Ningyou Syouji area, The stone Bridge in Innai Town, Higashi-shiya's water fall, Nagasi Fishing Harbor, Landscape of Nishi-Shiyya are selected for the film.

From what I selected, I can say that Fukuoka city and Usa city would be the main location of this film.

After the trip, I also had a clearer concept to create the story, characters as well as atmosphere of the film.

They are very important elements to help me write down the script and finalize it before the next trip to France (end of March 2019) and to Japan (April 2019) to meet producers and investors here.



Photo 2



Photo 3

Inside a Japanese traditional house in suburb of Fukuoka which was recommended by Fukuoka Film Commission for Water and Moon (photo 4)



Photo 4

A temple in suburb of Fukuoka which was recommended by Fukuoka Film Commission for Water and Moon (photo 5)



Photo 5

Chosen location in Ningyou Syouji –Fukuoka for Water and Moon (photo 6)



Photo 6

I spent 6 days in Kyoto to visit the city, doing some research about the Japanese architecture, experienced the daily life as well as visit Kyoto University.

Visit Nijo Jo Castle in Kyoto to research the decoration, architecture and space concept of Japanese architectural for WATER and MOON production design work (photo7)



Photo 7

Scouting Location in Oita - Usa

With the kindly help of Mr Chang Chiawei from Usa commission, I spent one full day in Usa to visit many landscape here such as Higashi Shiya waterfall, The mountain village Nishi-shiya, Buji Bridge, Buji Bunker, the rice field in Ryoai area, Ajimi Kote old town, Nagasu Fishing Harbor – Many location here was chosen for WATER and MOON (the part of past (Japan after second world war)

Visit a Japanese traditional hosue in mountain area of Usa with the help of Usa Film Commission (photo 8)



Photo 8

Visit Higashi Ater Fall (photo 9)



Photo 9

Joui Bunker(photo10)



Photo 10

a classroom in a local museum at Ajimu Kote town (photo11.)



Photo 11

I spent on week in Tokyo to meet Professor Nguyen Nam – who is researching Japanese culture to consult him about cultural issues related to WATER and MOON (I had no picture of this meeting).

I also visited Japanes Institute of Moving Imagine to select the talents for our Autumn Meeting as well as to know if I can have some talents here for WATER and MOON (photo 12)



Photo 12

4. Future plans for the project

The fellowship allowed me to plan the production for Water and Moon in detail as bellow:

Main location: Fukuoka city area and Usa City.

Time to finish script: April 2019.

Time to raising fund: April 2019 to April 2020

Time to casting: June 2020

Time to get crew: June to August 2020

Time to shoot the film: September 2020